REMARKS

Status:

Claims 1, 2 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the teaching of U. S. Pat. No. 6,151,703 to Crelier. Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over the teaching of Crelier considered in view of U. S. Pat No. 6,192,282 to Stoodley et al. Claims 3-14 stand objected to, as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if recast to avoid that dependency. Claims 16-20 stand allowed. Claim 21 is canceled.

Claims 1-20 are presented for reconsideration in view of the following analysis.

Analysis:

Claims 16-20 stand allowed and are not discussed further. Claims 3 and 5 are recast as independent and are blieved to now be allowable. Recasting claims 3 and 5 is believed to overcome the Examiner's objection regarding claims 3-10 and 12-14 being dependent upon claims that have not been allowed.

Claims 11 and 15 have been amended to depend on claim 3, which is believed to be allowable as recast.

Now focusing on claims 1 and 2, attention is directed to Applicant's specification at page 10, line 26-28. There it is indicated that *"the **entries** in iVFT 16 are an array of **pointers** to the function data structures"* (bolding added). *"The function data structures are defined to permit the interpreter to call the associated functions. Function data structures include the address to jump to to run the called method."*
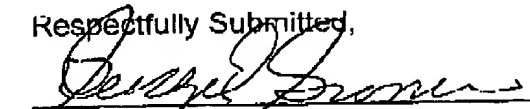
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The function tables have an array of pointers. This is a system where the pointers are arranged in tables such as tables cVFT 18 and iVFT 16. Note, Applicant's Fig. 1 where function pointers 20, 24 and 28 do not extend to fill the data blocks represented for arrays cVFT18 or iVFT 16. . For multiple classes the arrays are preferably arranged by respective classes. This approach avoids a creating a method block for each method.

Looking to the Crelier teaching at Fig. 5, it appears each method has a respective block 560 and the block has pointers for only its method. It appears to have entry points for "compiled" and "interpreted" pointers; but , for references only the one method. This, it is submitted, is not a table for a set of functions as called for in Applicant's claim 1. Instead each method box has only its own respective pointers.

To emphasize this inventive distinction, the word "any" has been added at lines 9 and 11 of claim 1 to more clearly indicate the set has multiple functions. Claim 2 is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. The other prior art is not believed to overcome the above-discussed deficiency in the Crelier teaching.

In accordance with the foregoing, it is believed this case has been placed in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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